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# A DECLARATION OF THE Most Christian King, SHEWING THE REASONS For Recalling his PLENIPOTENTIARIES FROM THE Treaty at Cologne.

In the *SAVOY*,
Printed by *Tho: Newcombe*, 1674.

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# *The most* Christian Kings *Reasons, for Recalling his Ambassadors from* Cologne.

ALthough the late Attempt Committed on the Person of *William* Prince of *Furstemberg*, Plenipotentiary for the Elector of *Cologne*, in the very City of *Cologne* it self, the Place appointed for the Treaty of Peace, hath been done by some of the Officers and Souldiers belonging to the Regiment of *Grana*, one of the Regiments of the Imperial Army; yet the King of *France* would not at first look upon the Emperor, as being the Author of so Odious an Action, his Majesty ever reflecting on himself, and knowing, that nothing in the World ought to be held so Sacred and Inviolable among Kings and Soveraigns, as the true and exact observation of their Word. He thought he should do too great an Injury to his Imperial Majesty, by believing him capable of violating, by so horrid an Act, a Faith he had so solemnly given, not only to the whole Empire at the Diet of *Ratisbonne*, but even to all *Europe*, for the secure Neutrality of a Town, from whence all Christendome did expect a happy Calm.

It was in that Proſpect, and for no other conſideration, that his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty did ſuſpend his juſt Reſentment of ſuch an Attempt; being ſtill willing to give the Emperor time to Declare, that it was done without his Order, gladly expecting to ſee the Chaſtiſement he ſhould inflict on the Offendors, to wash away the Blur they had made on his Reputation, by doing which, the Emperor would have made it appear to the World, that his Intention was not to infract the Publick Faith, nor hinder the preſent Negociation for Peace. For theſe Reaſons, his Majeſty forbore commanding his Ambaſſadors away from *Cologne*, though the Neutrality of that Town, ſo lately violated, afforded him ground lawful enough, to fear they could not remain there any longer with Safety. And indeed, that which his Majeſty ſo juſtly feared, hath ſince prov'd but too true in the ſequel, the ſame Security which was violated before on the Perſon of a Publick Miniſter belonging to a Prince Allied to his Majeſty, was ſoon broken afreſh on that of his own Ambaſſadors, in the ſame Place, their Liveries and other Equippages having been publickly Arreſted, and a great and conſiderable Sum of Moneys belonging to his Majeſty, ſeaz'd on, and detain'd forcibly, by Order from the Chief Commander of the ſaid Regiment of *Grana*, the ſaid Moneys being Loaded on one of their own Waggons. And all this done in a City, in which Freedom and Liberty is allow'd, common to all the World: having beſides, caus'd an Expreſs, ſent by the Count *de Chamilly* to the ſaid Ambaſſadors, to be both Arreſted and Searcht. In a word, *Cologne* which till then, had been Conſecrated for the Publick Security of all *Europe*, is by a monſtrous Change, become on a ſuddain, a moſt Bloody Theater, where on thoſe very Troops deſigned for the preſervation of the Neutrality ofthe Place, being by the Magiſtrates

Magiſtrates of the ſame, Sworn to keep and maintain it, have ſince exerciſed with Impunity, all the Outrages and Violences that both Avarice and Revenge can inſpire. Notwithſtanding all which, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath hitherto forborn imputing the leaſt of thoſe Exorbitancies to the Emperors Orders, as being ſtill willing to perſwade himſelf, out of the Concern he hath for his Glory, that they were attempted without any Intent of his Imperial Majeſty. But now ſince the Anſwer given at *Vienna*, to the Miniſters of *Sweden*, makes it appear evidently, that the Forcible Stealing away of the ſaid Prince *William*, was really an Effect of the Emperors Order and expreſs Command, his Majeſty of *France* can no longer doubt, but what hath been done ſince to his Miniſters at *Cologne*, hath been a following Conſequence, of the ſelf ſame Orders and Directions. His Majeſty therefore, both in conſideration of that he owes to himſelf, and what the ſecurity of his Ambaſſadors requires of him in this Conjuncture, hath thought it not fit to leave them any longer expoſed to theſe Violences, which will doubtleſs raiſe the juſt Indignation, as well as the Wonder of all *Europe*. Thereupon, his Majeſty hath at the ſame time Commanded them to inform the *Swediſh* Miniſters, (who during the whole Treaty, have exerciſed the Mediation of the King their Maſter, by whoſe Great and Prudent Care, the ſaid Aſſembly was convok'd together) of the Reſolution he hath taken to Re-call them home. The ſaid Ambaſſadors of *Sweden*, having hitherto been Eye-witneſſes, of thoſe facil Means and Expedients his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath from time to time Propounded, for the making the ſaid Negociation to take Effect: as on the contrary, they have ſeen what violent Courſes have been uſed by the Emperor all along, to hinder and ſtop the Progreſs of the ſame; It's but Reaſon they ſhould likewiſe ſee, what juſt and

lawful Grounds do now oblige him to draw a proportionate Revenge upon his Enemies by force of Armes, for the ſlight account made by them of what ought to be moſt Sacred, not among Princes onely, but even among all Men; and by the ſame Force to compel them to Seek a Peace, they now ſtrive to Hinder, by Means ſo Unjuſt and Unwarrantable. Would the whole Empire but ſeriouſly reflect on the Emperors Conduct in this Conjuncture, it would evidently appear, that it includes in itſelf, many Siniſter Deſigns, which muſt needs prove fatal to her Liberty, if not timely prevented; there being nothing that diſcovers more the Injuſtice of a Deſign, than the odiouſneſs of the means practiſed for the effecting of it. Had the Emperor therefore been leſs concerned than he was, in his hindring the Aſſembly at *Cologne*, from producing a Peace, he would never have had recourſe to ſuch Practiſes, as muſt of neceſſity Diſſolve the ſtricteſt Ties and Bounds of all Humane Society: he would not have Violated the Neutrality of a Place appointed for the Treaty, by his Inſults on the Perſons of Ambaſſadors of *France*: he would not, I ſay, have ſuffered his Officers and Commanders to ſeize forcibly and violently on Monies appertaining to his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, within the Walls of a Free City; but in a word, would have Acted in this Conjuncture, with more Candor and more Generoſity, and in a War he hath raſhly Declared againſt him; at leaſt, if he had feared leſs than he ſeems to do, the end and conſequences of it.

All the while the Conferences laſted at *Cologne*, and the Mediators indeavored to bring together the moſt Refractory Parties concerned; the Emperor alone, who fearing to ſee himſelf Diſarmed by a Peace, and conſequently made to loſe that Power, he had uſurped ſince the year laſt paſt, of Quartering his Troops indifferently, and Conqueror like,

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in the Territories of all the Princes of the Empire, thereby ſtrengthning his Armies at their Coſts and Charges, by all which proceedings he did openly Contervene and Infringe, under vain and ſpecious Pretences, the Treaties of *Weſtphalia*, and raiſing again a Power, heretofore ſo formidable to the *German* Liberty, and which Power could never be reduced to any lawful Limits, but after ſo many long and Bloody-wars. To add no more, the ſaid Emperor dreaded nothing more, than to ſee by the Concluſion of a Peace at *Cologne*, the end of a Quarrel meerly a Stranger to the Concern of the Empire, prove the End and Stop of thoſe Deſigns he hath fram'd againſt the very Empire it ſelf.

All theſe things duely Weighed, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty doubts not, but that not onely the King of *Sweden* himſelf, whoſe Honor is found ſo highly concerned in this Breach of a Faith, of which he was made Depoſitory as Chief Mediator, but even all other Princes concerned, and ſenſibly toucht with a Deſire of Peace, will not fail to impute to the Emperor, and him onely, the unhappy Diſſolution of an Aſſembly that was both capable and likely, to have procured it to all Chriſtendome.

The whole Empire may one day Remember, that her Tranquility might eaſily have been reſtored, had the Emperor brought to the Treaty, the ſame Candid and Sincere Diſpoſitions, that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty hath ſhewed all along, in and ſince the late Treaties of *Weſtphalia*; and that had his Imperial Majeſty conſented to Ingage his Word, not to Aſſiſt at all the Enemies of *France*, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty would freely have Obliged himſelf, to have cauſed his Armies to quit *Germany* at the ſame time, as ſoon as he ſhould have received the ſaid Promiſe from him. However, his Majeſty notwithſtanding what hath paſt hitherto, does

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still retain the same Sentiments for Peace he had before: The just Reasons that made him undertake a War, have not, nor do not lessen or diminish any thing of his first Inclination, towards the Quiet and Calm of the Empire: And what ever Happy Success he justly hopes, God may please to Crown his Arms with, he shall never think them more happy, than when they shall reduce his Enemies to desire a Durable Peace.

*Given at* Versailles, *the* 24 *of* March, 1674.

*FINIS.*

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